

RIP CURRENT SAFETY



What are rip currents?

Rip currents are strong currents or columns of water flowing swiftly away from the beach or shore.

Are rip currents dangerous?

Yes. Rip currents are extremely dangerous to swimmers, particularly if the person is not from South Florida and generally unaware of how very dangerous the Atlantic Ocean can be under adverse conditions. Rip currents can sometimes form near fishing piers, groins and jetties.

Do rip currents pull swimmers underwater?

No. Rip currents do not pull people underwater. However, rip currents can carry even the strongest swimmers out and away from the beach.

What if you are caught in a rip current?

Don't panic! Remain calm, conserve energy and think clearly. Never fight or struggle against the current. A rip current is like a treadmill that can't be turned off. Swim out of the current in a direction following the shoreline. When out of the current, swim at an angle — away from the current — towards the shore. If you are unable to swim out of the rip current, float or calmly tread water. If you are unable to reach the shore, draw attention to yourself by waving and yelling for assistance.

How do rip currents cause people to drown?

Swimmers drown when they can't get back to shore. This may be due to any combination of fear, panic, exhaustion or lack of swimming skills.



DANGER: Rip currents pose a grave danger to swimmers in South Florida.



DAILY RIP CURRENT INFO



For daily rip current information in South Florida, please visit the Web site of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Web site address is:
www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov/forecasts.shtml.